

A Word from Kathy

This is another sad story in Genesis with no winners, only losers. As we will see, there really is nothing new under the sun. Bad things do happen to sweet, innocent people. Dinah did nothing to bring this on; so now what? God is ready to help us see the importance of looking to him in our times of crisis. Read the chapter at least twice and ask God to help you see all he has for you there.

Observation

1. The scripture simply says that Dinah went out to visit with the women who lived near her. She was a typical young teen woman who enjoyed visiting with other women her age. Who saw her and took an interest in her?
2. It was not enough for Shechem to look at her and admire her beauty. What did he do?
3. What would have given him such boldness to do this and then come and ask for her hand in marriage?
What facts do we know about him from the text?
Whose son was he?
What do you believe he was accustomed to getting?
4. Genesis 34:2 in the NIV says “he took her and violated her.” The same verse in KJV says “he defiled her.” In the ESV, verse 2 says “he humiliated her,” and in NLT and the MSG it says “he raped her.” Do you see how serious a situation this was for Dinah?
5. In verse 3, it says his heart was drawn to Dinah. It goes on to say he loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her. What tender words do you think he might have been saying at that point?
What do you suppose Dinah was doing?
6. Read verse 4 again, and briefly describe the relationship between Hamor and Shechem?
7. Jacob heard what had happened to his daughter. The scripture said he waited; he kept quiet about it until her brothers returned from their work. Do you think his lack of action caused more pain to Dinah? If so, in what way?

8. What was the response of her brothers when they heard? Young men have a tendency to react in a more black and white way. What emotions did the scripture say they experienced?
How did they perceive this offense?
Who was the offense against?
9. What did this ruler, Hamor, request on behalf of his son?
10. What did he request on behalf of all the people of his kingdom?
11. How eager did Shechem appear to be to have Dinah for his wife? Look at verse 12.
12. Because Dinah had been defiled, what did her brothers plan? Briefly state the plan.
13. The brothers tried to handle this situation. What steps could have been taken to handle this better? Her brothers came up with a plan, but who had they left out?
14. What was the circumcision suppose to represent? What was the purpose? If you can't recall, read Genesis 17:9-12.
15. What was the motivating factor that would have gotten these men to agree so quickly to the idea of circumcision (Vss. 22-23)?
16. What was the result of their foolish decision to be circumcised? Had they really counted the cost of this venture? What sin led them into a very vulnerable position (Vs. 23)?
17. Simeon and Levi took matters into their own hands. They opted for revenge instead of justice. What might justice have been? How far beyond justice did they go?
18. Jacob was harsh with Simeon and Levi; he seemed more worried about retaliation from the surrounding peoples of the land than he was about his own daughter. What should her daddy have done to help her heal?

Application

19. As you read this story, did you recall anything in your own life that felt similar?
Has anyone ever taken advantage of you in the name of love?
20. There are times when we are walking in innocence and bad things simply happen.
When they do, how should we respond? Where should we run?
21. This young prince, Shechem, was very comfortable simply taking what he wanted.
He indulged himself in whatever area he pleased, to whatever point he wanted.
What would have been a better plan?
22. Do you believe he loved Dinah? Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and describe real love.
Had he shown any of these qualities?
23. The prince, Shechem, allowed his passions to boil over into actions. Love and lust
are very different. They may feel alike at first, but if you can't wait, what you feel is
not love. What should he have done had he really loved Dinah?
24. Verse 3 said that Shechem loved her, but did it look like "love" to you? His lack of
self-control was devastating, and many suffered as a consequence. Who was hurt by
this act of selfishness? How can you apply this to your life in order to keep from
hurting others?
25. How would you feel toward your father or brothers had you been Dinah?
26. When someone dear to you is hurt, what is your plan of action?
Are you really ministering to the one who is hurt or trying to get revenge?
Solomon, the wise king, said in Ecclesiastes 3 that there is a time for everything.
Timing is important. All the experiences he listed are important, but the key is to
discover, accept and appreciate God's perfect timing.
27. When tempted to return evil for evil, what are we to do? Read King David's answer
in 1 Samuel 24:12. What do you think David really believed about God?

28. Why do you think Jacob did not answer the question his son's asked him in verse 31?

What are they asking of their father?

29. How might things have been different had Simeon and Levi had Romans 12:19 to guide them? The minute we attempt to take revenge, we are no longer walking by faith. What are we really saying about God?

30. Simeon and Levi were correct in their belief that to make a deal with Shechem would be like selling their sister as a prostitute. But the way they handled it was not correct; it was fueled by emotion and revenge. What did it cost them later (Gen. 49:5-7)? Think back on the last time you allowed your emotions to rule your decisions; how well did that work out?

31. What do you learn about anger and vengeance from the verses below?

Psalm 37:8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret--it leads only to evil.

Proverbs 14:16-17 A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless. A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated.

Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

32. As Christians, according to Colossians 3:8 and James 1:19-20, how are we to handle anger, malice and hate?

Colossians 3:8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

James 1:19-20 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

33. After reading the verses of question 31 & 32, in what way had Simeon and Levi's responses made them just like Shechem?

Personalize this thought.